



Five English Folk Songs

No. 2

The Spring Time  
of the Year

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

Note from original publication”

‘NOTE– The words of this song are taken from a long ballad called “Lovely on the Water.” As the rest of the ballad is not very interesting and, moreover has very little to do with the first two verses (here given), the editor has felt himself justified in taking these two verses only out of which to make a choral movement.’

Additional note– the full version of the text is provided below.

As I walked out one morning  
In the spring time of the year,  
I overheard a sailor boy,  
Likewise a lady fair.

They sang a song together,  
Made the valleys for to ring;  
While the birds on spray and the meadows gay  
Proclaimed the lovely spring.

Said Willy unto Nancy,  
“Oh we soon must sail away,  
For it’s lovely on the water  
To hear the music play.

For our Queen she do want seamen,  
So I will not stay on shore.  
I will brave the wars for my country  
Where the blund’ring cannons roar.”

Poor Nancy fell and fainted  
But soon he brought her to,  
For it’s there they kissed and they embraced  
And took a fond adieu.

“Come change your ring with me, my love,  
For we may meet once more;  
But there’s One above that will guard you, love,  
Where the blund’ring cannons roar.

Four pounds, it is our bounty,  
And that must do for thee.  
For to help the aged parents  
While I am on the sea.”

For Tower Hill is crowded  
With mothers weeping sore,  
For their sons are gone to face the foe  
Where the blund’ring cannons roar.

Traditional from Norfolk

# The Spring Time of the Year

RVW

Adagio ♩ = 56

Soprano (S): *pp* (closed lips)

Alto (A): *pp* (closed lips)

Tenor (T): *pp* Ah Ah

Bass (B): *pp* (closed lips)

5

Soprano (S):

Alto (A):

Tenor (T): Ah Ah

Bass (B):

NOTE- "Half-closed lips" signifies the short "u" sound, as in the word "but."



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## The Spring Time of the Year

9

Soprano: *(melisma)*

Alto: *(melisma)*

Tenor: *(half-closed lips)*

Bass: *(melisma)*

13

Soprano: *p*  
As I walk'd out one morn - ing In the

Alto: *p*  
As I walk'd out one morn - ing In the

Tenor: *p*  
As I walk'd out one morn - ing In the

Bass: *p*  
As I walk'd out In the

16

Soprano: spring time of the year, I o - ver - heard a

Alto: spring time of the year, I o - ver - heard a

Tenor: spring time of the year, I o - ver - heard a

Bass: spring time of the year, I o - ver - heard a

The Spring Time of the Year

19

S sail - or boy, Like - wise a la - dy fair.

A sail - or boy, Like - wise a la -

T sail - or boy, Like - wise a la - - -

B sail - or boy, Like - wise a la - dy

22

S They sang a song to - geth - er, Made the

A - - - dy fair. They sang a

T - - - dy fair. They sang to - geth - er,

B fair. They sang a song to - geth - er, Made the

25

S val - leys for to ring; While the birds on spray and the

A song, Made the val - leys for to ring; While the

T Made the val - leys ring; While the

B val - - - leys ring; While the birds on spray and the

## The Spring Time of the Year

28

S mead - ows gay Pro - claim'd the love - ly spring. *non troppo* *p*

A mead - ows gay Pro - claim'd the love - ly spring. *non troppo* *p*

T mead - ows gay Pro - claim'd the love - ly spring. *non troppo* *p*

B mead - ows gay Pro - claim'd the love - ly spring. *non troppo* *p*

32

S *pp* (half-closed lips)

A *pp* (half-closed lips)

T *pp* Ah *pp* Ah

B *pp* (half-closed lips)

36

S *pp* *pp*

A *pp* *pp*

T *pp* (half-closed lips)

B *pp* *pp*

The Spring Time of the Year

40

Soprano (S): Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 40-43. Melody with a slur over measures 40-41 and a fermata at the end of measure 43.

Alto (A): Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 40-43. Melody with a slur over measures 40-41, dynamics *pp* and *non troppo*, and vocalizations "Ah" in measures 41 and 42.

Tenor (T): Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 40-43. Melody with a slur over measures 40-41, dynamics *pp* and *non troppo*, and vocalization "Ah" in measure 41.

Bass (B): Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 40-43. Bass line with a slur over measures 40-41 and dynamics *pp*, with vocalization "Ah" in measure 43.

43

Soprano (S): Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 43-46. Melody with a slur over measures 43-44, rests in measures 45-46, and dynamics *ppp* in measure 46.

Alto (A): Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 43-46. Melody with a slur over measures 43-44, rests in measures 45-46, and dynamics *ppp* in measure 46.

Tenor (T): Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 43-46. Melody with rests in measures 43-44, dynamics *pp* and *ppp*, and a slur over measures 45-46.

Bass (B): Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 43-46. Bass line with a slur over measures 43-44, dynamics *ppp*, and a slur over measures 45-46.

Stainer & Bell  
(1913)

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